

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2557

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 12329

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: TBIO, CO

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

REF: SAN JOSE 5343, BOGOTA 5686 (NOTAL)

1. ICMR HAS OPERATED IN COLOMBIA THRU TULANE UNIVERSITY UNDER AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND THE UNIVERSIDAD DEL VALLE IN CALI. NO TRAINING PROGRAMS ARE PRESENTLY BEING CONDUCTED, THE PROGRAM BEING ON OF CLINICALLY ORIENTED RESEARCH MOSTLY ABOUT TROPICAL DISEASES. ICMR'S AGREEMENT WITH THE GOC EXTENDS UNTIL 1977.

2. ICMR' RELATIONS WITH THE GOC HAVE BEEN GOOD, BUT BECAUSE OF ITS LARGE US COMPONENT IT HAS OCCASIONALLY BEEN THE SUBJECT OF ATTACK BY LEFT-WING GROUPS AT THE UNIVERSIDAD DEL VALLE. THESE GROUPS HAVE ALSO QUESTIONED THE USEFULNESS TO COLOMBIA OF SUCH PURE RESEARCH AS OPPOSED TO OTHER ACTIVITIES OF MORE IMMEDIATE BENEFIT TO THE PEOPLE. EARLIER THIS YEAR THE LEFTIST-DOMINATED BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNIVERSITY VOTED AGAINST EXTENDING THE UNIVERSITY'S AGREEMENT WITH TULANE.

3. SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD BETWEEN TULANE/ICMR AND THE GOC. ICMR EXPECTS TO STAY IN COLOMBIA AND TO CONTINUE ITS PRESENT PROGRAMS, BUT UNDER A MORE DECENTRALIZED ARRANGEMENT
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OPERATING HHROUGH SEVERAL GOC AGENCIES AND HAVING LESS CONTACT

WITH THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM. A LARGER COLOMBIAN COMPONENT IN
THE ACTIVITIES IS ALSO LIKELY.
VAKY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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